advancement of women, will be strengthened. These will be through interventions as may be appropriate and will relate to, among others, provision of adequate resources, staff training and advocacy skills to effectively influence macro-policies, legislations, programmes etc. to achieve the empowerment of women.

Handicapped Persons

2270. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons in the country at present;

(b) the funds allocated to provide facilities to these persons like their rehabilitation, infrastructural facilities, education, employment and awareness, out of the multi-crore budget of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) the details of the per capita amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As per the National Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, there are 16.15 million disabled persons in the country suffering from visual, speech, hearing and locomotor disability. The survey did not include mantal disability. However, research studies conducted to assess the population of mentally handicapped in the country showed that around 2 to 2.5% of the population are affected by mental disability.

(b) An amount of Rs. 65.11 crores (Rs. 45.90 crores Plan and Rs. 19.21 crores Non-plan) has been provided for the current financial year 1996-97 under different schemes for the welfare of disabled persons being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare (being the nodal Ministry in the regard) out of their budget.

(c) It is not possible to calculate per capita amount for want of exact estimates of the population of mentally handicapped persons.

Assistance to U.P. Public Transport

2271. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'Nidar' : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance for development of various means of public transport in the Urban areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance provided to the State, so far;

(c) whether any international agency has made an offer to provide the financial assistance Public transport system in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Money for Miss World Contest

2272. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money spent by the Union Government and the State Government separately for the Miss World Contest held in Bangalore;

(b) the details of benefits achieved by the State or nation from the event;

(c) whether there was criticism that such events are against our culture; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) The Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India and the State Government of Karnataka have not provided financial assistance for the Miss World Contest held at Bangalore on 23rd November, 1996.

(c) Yes, Sir. Social activists and women organisations had protested against the event for a variety of reasons ranging from commodification of women to disparagement of Indian womanhood.

(d) The Government acknowledges the right of freedom of expression of all sections of society.

Indian Territory under Chinese Possession

2273. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) total area of India occupied by China;

(b) whether China do not recognise Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim as part of India; and

(c) the policy of India for taking back her territory from China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The area under occupation by China in Jammu & Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan "Boundary Agreement" of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded approximately 5120 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) The Chinese Government have laid claim to large parts of Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh. They have also refrained from formally recognising Sikkim as part of India.